SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 3-17 with the following 2 paragraphs.

The second step **11** in the method of the present invention shown in **Fig. 1** is to irradiate the skin surface with Nd:YAG laser pulses of about 3 J/cm^2 at a wavelength of 1.06 micrometers. Pulse frequency is about 5 Hz but we scan the beam so that each location is subjected to pulses at a frequency of about 1 Hz for the creation of a chronic wound selectively in the high dermis. ~~by the method described in Tankovich (U.S. Patent No. 6,036,684, col. 4, lines 5-31) in which the skin is exposed to laser pulses at a frequency of about 1 Hz.~~ This is produced by a photomechanical laser treatment wherein the laser light does not interact directly with the skin but instead interacts with a contaminant in the skin. The contaminant has the properties of absorbing the laser light and exploding. The contaminant is carbon or graphite particles in oil **20** which is applied to the skin (see **Fig. 2**). Once the contaminant or activating solution is applied to the skin, the laser treatment can begin. The energy from the laser is adjusted to be just sufficient to cause the particles to explode. Thus, as a result of the first pulse the first layer of graphite particles is exploded. The second layer and the skin surface is effectively shielded from the first pulse by the first layer. Some of the carbon particles above the skin have been pushed into the skin as a result of the shockwaves resulting from the explosion of the particle in the first layer. The second pulse coming 1 second later, vaporizes the second layer. As before, additional particles are pushed into the skin. The skin is fairly effectively shielded from the pulse by the second layer. But the third pulse interacts with the skin and the carbon particles below the skin. Laser energy at 1.06 wavelength has an extinction length in human skin of several millimeters but is highly absorbed in the graphite particles below the surface and upon absorption of the energy from the third pulse, the particles explode violently ripping off the dead cells of the stratum corneum which lay above the exploding cells. The first or second pulses clean substantially all of the mixture from the skin surface by violently fracturing the carbon particles. By observing how many particles remain, the doctor can estimate the degree to which each area has been treated. For hair removal, the beam is scanned over the area to be treated with each

section of the skin in the area receiving about 5 pulses. The energy is sufficient to devitalize the tissue feeding the hair so the hair dies.

As the particles explode, they cause the mineral oil **20** to penetrate into the epidermis producing hydration of the epidermis by retarding the evaporation of water (see **Fig. 2**). The heat from the explosion of the contaminant particles will induce a photothermal injury relatively selectively in the rete peg area of the high dermis **22** initiating a normal wound healing process. The epidermis is left intact. ~~Since the skin is exposed to laser pulses at a frequency of about 1 Hz, only one pass of the laser light is required to produce a single pulse exposure to the skin. This process does not remove hair or skin because the skin must be exposed to at least 3 pulses of laser light (see col. 4, lines 31-53) to remove the stratum corneum, and 4 or 5 pulses to remove hair (see col. 5, lines 43-64).~~ In order to produce a sufficient degree of injury to the wound, the laser treatment is produced several times over a six month period, preferably six times over a six month period. During this first six months the retinoic acid is applied topically twice per week as described above.